

LAPPUS THICANIFORMIS, A NEW SPECIES FROM MICHOACAN (ANTHICIDAE)

By FLOYD G. WERNER^{1,2}.

The genus *Lappus* Casey is limited to the continents of North and South America. It has most recently been treated as a subgenus of *Anthicus* but the distinctions from that genus are more than ample to warrant generic recognition. The present species is one that is very distinct from all North American species; the descriptions of the South American species that could be included in the genus are not adequate to permit sure identification but there appears to be none with the head characters of this one.

Lappus thicaniformis new species

This species is different from all described North American species of *Lappus* in having a narrow head that is pointed and slightly retrosalient at the vertex, much as in the genus *Thicanus* in North America or *Anthicus*, subgenus *Cyclodinus* in Europe. From either of these it is easily distinguished by the broadly triangular last segment of the maxillary palpi and by the male genitalia, which are of normal *Lappus* form (Fig. 2). The parameres are separate and there is a paired sclerotized structure associated with the internal sac. This structure is present in all the species of *Lappus* examined, as well as in *Isychyropalpus* Laf., a related genus that is best developed in South America. It is not present in any of the other genera of the family so far examined.

The anterior part of the body, including the base of the elytra to behind the transverse impression, is rufescent; the rest of the body is piceous. Two specimens have the fore part of the body almost as dark as the back part. Pubescence moderately sparse, decumbent, similar in color to the background.

Holotype male: Length 3.12 mm. Width: head behind eyes 0.51 mm., pronotum at widest point 0.58 mm., elytra at widest 1.02 mm. Head 0.61 mm. long to base of clypeus, 0.61 mm. wide across eyes, 0.51 mm. just behind eyes. Disc slightly swollen. The sides curve evenly behind the eyes to an ogival point (Fig. 1), which is slightly retrosalient. There is no sign of temporal angularity. Surface smooth, moderately densely punctured, the punctures 0.03 to 0.04 mm. from center to center, small but distinct, becoming crateriform below the level of the eyes. The eyes are moderately small, 0.22 × 0.18 mm., prominent, located 0.27 mm. from the tip of the vertex to a line connecting their hind margins. Frontoclypeal suture distinct. Antennae 1.64 mm. long, rufescent, becoming darker apically, particularly on the last four segments. Measurements (Length/Width in 0.01 mm.): I 22/6, II 12/6, III 17/7, IV 15/7, V 15/8, VI 14/8, VII 14/8, VIII 13/8, IX 13/9, X 10/9, XI 19/9. Segment I is almost parallel-sided; segments VII-X are thickest apically. Palpi normal for the

¹University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

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genus, the last segment of the maxillary palpi 0.15 mm. long, 0.28 mm. wide across apex, in the form of an isoceles triangle with the apex at the attachment.

Pronotum slightly swollen, evenly rounded in lateral profile, 0.72 mm. long, 0.58 mm. wide at 0.46 mm. from base, 0.31 mm. wide at the constriction and 0.38 mm. wide at base. Surface shiny, with punctures distinct and slightly denser than on the head. Elytra widest at about the middle, slightly swollen, with a shallow but distinct transverse impression. Length 1.79 mm., width at humeri 0.69 mm. and at widest point 1.02 mm. Suture slightly elevated. Surface smooth, with punctures as on

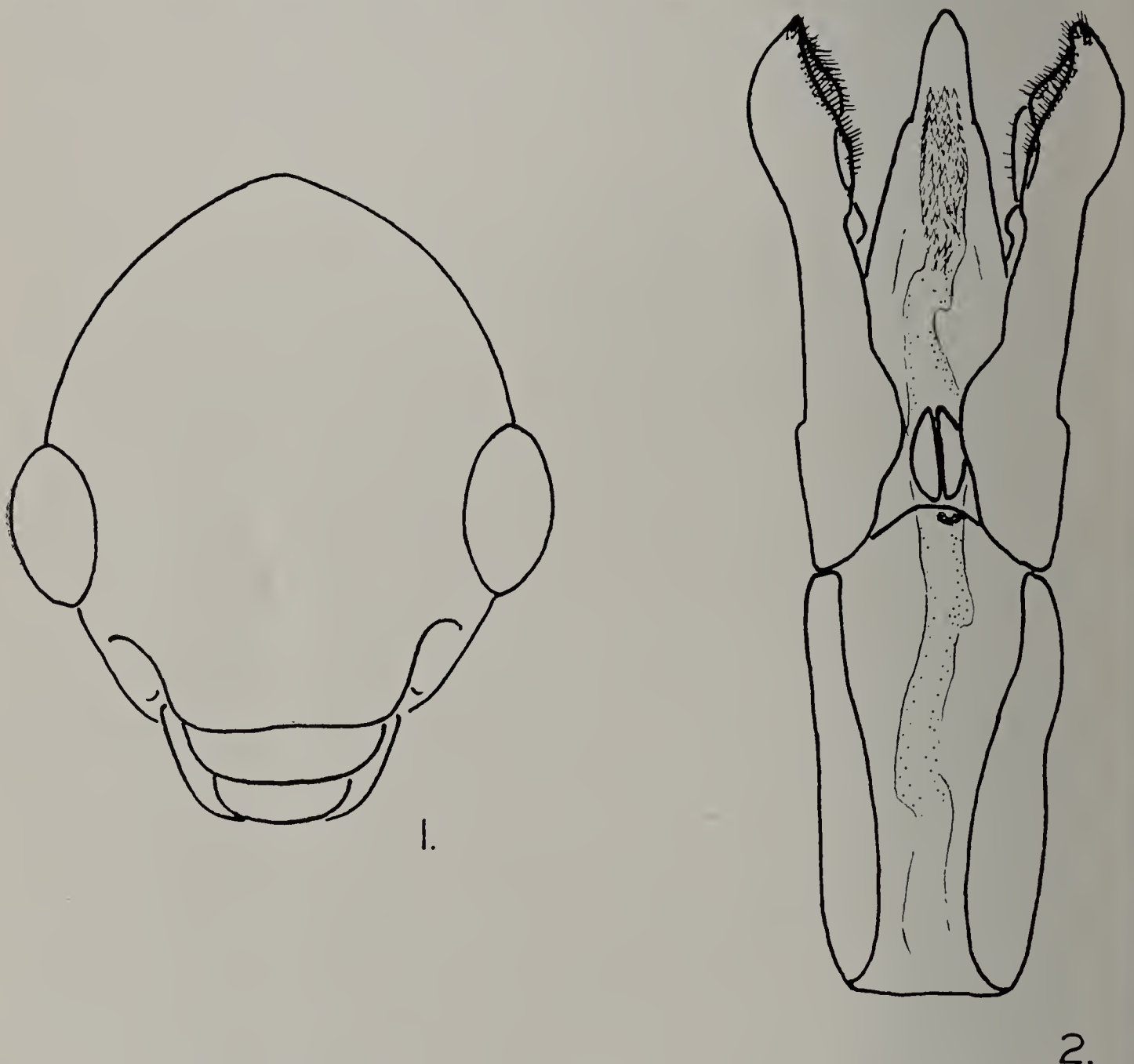


Fig. 1. Camera lucida drawing of head of holotype of *Lappus thicaniformis* in front view. Length to base of clypeus 0.61 mm. Fig. 2. Drawing made from microprojection of the genitalia of the holotype of *Lappus thicaniformis*, in ventral view as the genitalia lie in the abdomen. Total length 1.18 mm.

pronotum but slightly smaller behind the transverse impression. Pubescence in anterior part of transverse impression slightly oblique but not extremely so. Underside rufescent, tibiae darker and abdomen piceous. Legs not modified except for a very short subapical spine on the mesotrochanters and a trace of a spine on the pro-trochanters. Profemora 0.67×0.20 mm., metafemora 0.87×0.20 mm. Metatibiae almost straight, just perceptibly arcuate beyond the middle.

Allotype female: 3.12 mm. Differs from the holotype most notably in having the trochanters simple, in addition to normal differences at the tip of the abdomen, the male having a well-developed pygidium and truncate hypopygium.

Variation: Specimens range from 2.62 to 3.28 mm. long. The larger specimens tend to have the surface of the anterior part of the head wrinkled between the crateriform punctures. Two specimens, from 15 mi. E. of Morelia, are almost entirely piceous-brown.

Holotype: male, Uruapan, Michoacan, Mexico, 1610 m., July 24, 1947, T. H. Hubbell #126. Allotype: female, eutopotypical. Paratypes: 11 males, 18 females, eutopotypical. 3 males, 1 female, 15 mi. E. of Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico, at Jct. of Hwy. 4 and Huetamo Rd., 2100 m., July 8, 1947, T. H. Hubbell #83. Holotype and allotype in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan. Paratypes in the Museum of Zoology and in the collection of the author.

In Casey's key to the species of *Lappus* in North America north of Mexico (Casey, 1895, p. 657) the best way to separate *thicaniformis* is to insert a couplet at the very beginning of Group I:

Sides of head evenly rounded from the hind margins of the eyes to the vertex.....	
.....	<i>thicaniformis</i> sp. n.
Sides of head not evenly rounded from the hind margins of the eyes to the vertex but with distinct angulations at the tempora.....	

In Champion's key to the genus *Anthicus* in Mexico and Central America (Champion, 1890, p. 222) Species 12 through 19 belong to the genus *Lappus*. *Thicaniformis* keys out to species 17, *asphaltinus* Champ. A paratype of this species in the M. C. Z. collection differs from *thicaniformis* in having a normal *Lappus* head, slightly angulate at the tempora and broader than in *thicaniformis*, though the angularity is not mentioned in the description nor shown in the figure. Judging by the descriptions, *asphaltinus* has the narrowest head of any of the species of *Lappus* seen by Champion.

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